

AMAA news

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Peter Kougasian, Esq. (left) and Levon Filian (right), present Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau, Esq., Banquet Honoree, with a crystal bowl from Armenia.

AMAA NEWS

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Armenian Evangelical Avedisian School in
Yerevan, Armenia

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Editorial Message

Called to Teach, You and I

Levon Filian

The Bible constantly reminds us to train our children and teach them about God, about how they should love their God, obey His commandments and learn about the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. The Bible also provides us with guidelines on how to teach and when to teach our children.

In Deuteronomy 6:5-7, we read "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

In Proverbs 22:6, we read "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

In Psalms 78:6-7, we read "So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then, they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands."

In Matthew 28:19-20, we read "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In 3 John 1:4, we read "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

We dedicate this issue to the mission work which the AMAA does in teaching about God, through its programs in kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, the academy and theological schools.

We invite you to learn more about the schools sponsored or supported by the AMAA.

In a society where teaching about God, praying and displaying Bible verses are forbidden, we are challenged to take an active role in teaching our children about God, about His love for us and His plan for each and every one of us. This calling is part of Jesus' commission to His disciples. You and I are invited to participate in this commission.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for all of our teachers and administrators for their sacrificial dedication and service to teaching in our schools. I also thank God for all of our parents who make every effort to teach their children about God, whether it is at home, through youth ministries, camps, Sunday school, or church services.

We at the AMAA invite all of you to continue supporting our mission in teaching about God and His love from generation to generation. □



AMAA Holds Annual Banquet

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Annual Banquet was held on October 17, 2010 at the Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell, NJ with over 230 guests from all over the world. The event was especially planned to honor Robert M. Morgenthau, Esq., former District Attorney of New York County and special friend of Armenians; to introduce Levon Filian, the new Executive Director of the AMAA; and to announce Phase II of the AMAA Capital Campaign.

The theme for the Banquet was captured in the following quotations presented during the evening: *“Life is about making a commitment to a cause in which you believe.” Robert M. Morgenthau, Esq., “Everything we do, we do for everyone. Our mission transcends political and denominational boundaries.” Levon Filian*

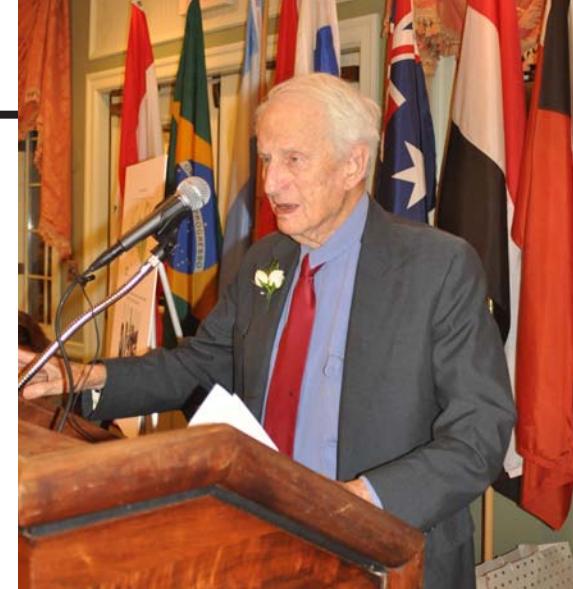
Following the Invocation by Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, Anita Buchakjian, Co-Chair of the Banquet, welcomed the guests and enthusiastically shared her thoughts on becoming involved in the organization. “Giving is easy, it takes commitment to serve,” said Mrs. Buchakjian, whose family has been involved with AMAA for many years.

Lucienne Aynilian, Co-Chair of the Banquet, introduced AMAA Board Member Peter Kougasian, Esq., who served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Mr. Kougasian introduced and recognized the dignitaries and special friends of the AMAA who were present. Greetings were expressed by Hrair Steven Aharonian, M.D., AMAA President,

and by Garen Nazarian, Armenian UN Ambassador.

Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., AMAA Board Member and Chair of the Armenian Children’s Milk Fund, spoke of the success of the Milk Fund Program, which was founded 20 years ago to save the lives of thousands of children in Armenia and Karabagh. As a member of the Development Committee, she also announced Phase II of the AMAA’s Capital Campaign, which is being kicked off with a pledge of \$5 million in matching funds from Edward and Pamela Avedisian toward the construction of a new campus for the Avedisian School in Yerevan. Ms. Papelian challenged the group to support the Capital Campaign in the coming months. Phase I of the Campaign, which raised over \$11 million, supported the AMAA’s summer camps in Lebanon, Armenia and Karabagh; the purchase and renovation of the AMAA Headquarters in Armenia; the completion of the Heritage Building at Haigazian University in Beirut; and the AMAA internship program in Armenia.

Mr. Kougasian, who worked for Mr. Morgenthau for 30 years in the District Attorney’s Office in New York, introduced Mr. Morgenthau, whose grandfather served as United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire under President Woodrow Wilson and championed the cause of



Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau, Esq., former District Attorney of New York County.



(l to r) John Cherkezian; Garen Nazarian, Armenian UN Ambassador; H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., President of the AMAA Board of Directors; Levon Filian, Executive Director, AMAA; and Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor, Armenian Presbyterian Church, Paramus.



(l to r) H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., President of the AMAA Board of Directors; Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director; Anita Buchakjian, Co-Chair of the AMAA Annual Banquet; Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau, Esq., Banquet Honoree; Lucienne Aynilian, Co-Chair of the AMAA Annual Banquet; and Peter Kougasian, Esq., AMAA Board Member and Master of Ceremonies.

AMAA Annual Meeting

the Armenian people during the Genocide.

“For five generations, the Morgenthau family has kept alive the spirit of moral righteousness,” said Mr. Kougasian. “For example, Mr. Morgenthau, who is also Chairman of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan, made sure that the diplomatic cable that contained the famous words ‘a campaign of race extermination is in progress’ is currently on display in an exhibition of the Morgenthau family at the Museum.” Following Mr. Morgenthau’s presentation, Mr. Kougasian, along with AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian, presented Mr. Morgenthau with a beautiful crystal bowl from Armenia in appreciation for all he and his family have done for the Armenian people and for his presence at the AMAA Annual Banquet.

Mr. Morgenthau reflected on the commitment that both his father and grandfather had for human rights. He said “life is about making a commitment to a cause in which you believe.” He pointed out that it was because the world failed to remember adequately the Armenian Genocide which allowed Hitler to believe that he could commit the crime of genocide with impunity.

The AMAA was honored by the presence of representatives from The Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the United Nations, The Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, and the Armenian American Health Professional Organization.

The Merlin Virtuosi Ensemble provided beautiful Armenian classical and Christian music and songs throughout the evening.

Mr. Filian thanked the guests for their support and challenged them to continue their participation in AMAA activities with greater enthusiasm. He said that “everything we do, we do for everyone. Our mission transcends political and denominational boundaries. We cooperate with all benevolent, philanthropic and Christian organizations.”

The program concluded by singing the Lord’s Prayer “Hayr Mer” in Armenian. The Benediction was offered by Rev. Harout Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council. □



(Front row, l to r) Rene Chirinian, Linda Chirinian, Andreas Roubian and Priya. (Back row, l to r) Vahe Nahapetian, Shake Nahapetian, Lucienne Aynilian, Vahram Aynilian and Robert Hekemian, Sr.



(Front row, l to r) Pamela Avedisian, Edward Avedisian, Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., AMAA Board Member. (Back row, l to r) Serge Krikorian, Ann Krikorian, Louise Gulleyan, Rev. Berj Gulleyan and Phyllis Dohanian.



The Merlin Virtuosi Ensemble.



(l to r) Joe Stein, Joyce Philibosian Stein, Dr. John Markarian and Mrs. Inga Margarian.

AMAA Annual Meeting



(l to r) MJ Hekemian, Noubar Dorian and Ashley Dorian.



(l to r) Levon Filian, David Filian and Dr. Liliana Pantoja Filian.



(l to r) Anita Buchakjian and Lucienne Aynilian, Co-Chairs of the Banquet.



(Standing l to r) Seta Nalbandian, Louise Gulleyan; (seated l to r) Seta Nalbandian and Nora Loshkajian.



(Standing l to r) Rev. Joseph Matossian, Dr. Raffi Hovanessian and Irina Lazarian, Armenia Fund USA; (seated) Vicki Hovanessian.



(l to r) Gary Phillips, Esq., AMAA Board Secretary, John Cherkezian and Arsine Phillips.



(l to r) Arouss Darpinian, Gladys Keuhnelian, Rev. Berj Gulleyan and Marie Alberian.



(l to r) Serge Buchakjian, Nina Buchakjian and Anita Buchakjian.



(l to r) Dr. Carol Bezirganian Perez, AMAA Board Member, and Dr. Antonio Perez.



(l to r) Dr. Michael Voskian, AMAA Board Member, and Jacqueline Voskian.

AMAA 91st Annual Meeting

The 91st Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was held at the AMAA headquarters in Paramus, NJ on October 16. Over 75 members including Board Members, pastors, representatives of churches and mission committees, representatives of Armenian Evangelical Unions throughout the world and delegates from affiliate groups were present to review the service ministries of the AMAA.

Various reports presented by the AMAA Committees and delegates indicated how vibrant the organization is and how effective its service ministries are. During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, more than seven million dollars was distributed to support over 140 projects in 24 countries. The delegates thanked God for empowering the organization and leading faithful members and friends to support the organization. The Annual Meeting also reflected on the organization's finances and reviewed reports of the Treasurer and the independent auditors. The names of nine new members, elected by the membership to serve on the Board, were announced and four new members were elected to the AMAA's Nominating Committee.

Along with the Annual Meeting, various related activities were held during the weekend. The AMAA Board members dedicated special time to discuss a new strategic plan for the organization for the coming years. This was followed by an open session of the AMAA Board of Directors where representatives from different parts of the world brought their reports.

On October 17, all members and guests joined the Armenian Presbyterian Church congregation in Paramus for a special service of praise for the AMAA. The guest preacher was Rev. Bedros Altunian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Varna, Bulgaria. His sermon, on the parable of the prodigal son, was spiritually uplifting as he stressed the unique love of the Father for his returning son.

During the Worship Service, the newly elected members of the AMAA Board of Directors, the current Board members and Board officers were installed.

On Sunday afternoon at the Hackensack Golf Club, the 91st Annual Banquet was held honoring Robert M.

Morgenthau, Esq., the recently retired District Attorney of the County of New York. Mr. Morgenthau is the grandson of Ambassador Morgenthau, who served as United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during the First World War and the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-five years have passed since the darkest period of the Armenian history. The Armenian Nation, through the grace of God and thanks to its faith, survived. Part of God's plan to rehabilitate an almost annihilated nation was the establishment of the AMAA in 1918. The AMAA's mission was to help the survivors through various spiritual, educational, social and relief services.

Today, the AMAA continues to help the Armenian nation both in the independent homeland and throughout the Diaspora. AMAA continues to make a difference by bringing God's love to all and by helping people share their blessings and resources. □



91st Annual Meeting of the AMAA.



Installation of AMAA Board Members.

AMAA Elects New Board Members and Officers

In accordance with the appropriate policies and procedures, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has elected its new Board members and officers.

On October 16, 2010, the AMAA general membership elected four new members to the Nominating Committee. The new members are: Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Jeanmarie Papelian, George Phillips, Sr., and Carlos Taraktzian.

On October 16, 2010, the following nine individuals were elected by the AMAA general membership to serve on the Board of Directors as the Class of 2013: Alice Altoon, Edward Avedisian, Peter Kougasian, Stephanie Stein Landes, Thomas Momjian, Vahe Nalbandian, Hovhannes Shnorhokian, Eileen Chopourian Stephey and Joseph Zeronian. The new members were installed during the 2010 AMAA Annual Meeting Worship Service at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus.

On December 3, 2010, the Board of Directors elected its officers and approved the Executive Committee as follows: H. Steven Aharonian, President; Jeanmarie Papelian, Alan Philibosian and Joseph Zeronian, Vice Presidents; David Hagopian, Thomas Momjian and Gary Phillips, Secretaries; Nurhan Helvacian, Treasurer; David Hekemian, Assistant Treasurer; Berjouhy Gulessarian and Fred Simonian, Advisors; Levon Filian, Executive Director; Albert Momjian, Solicitor; and Joyce Stein, Representative of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

The AMAA congratulates its newly elected members and thanks them for their willingness to serve God through the AMAA and wishes them wisdom to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to them. □



**H. Steven Aharonian, M.D.,
AMAA President**

Donation to Honor the Memory of Zeron Hekimian and his wife Esther Hekimian-Mgerdichian

Ms. Yevkine Mgerdichian donated ten thousand US dollars to the Armenian Evangelical Holy Trinity Church in Kessab Syria, for the renovation of the Armenian Evangelical Martyrs Hall in Kessab Syria, in memory of her late sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. Esther Hekimian Mgerdichian and Mr. Zeron Hekimian.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35b)



Capital Fundraising Campaign

Phase II Kickoff

The AMAA Development Committee announced Phase II of the AMAA's Capital Campaign during its 91st Annual Banquet, held at the Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell, New Jersey on October 17. The Campaign gained momentum with the generous pledge of \$5 million in matching funds from Edward and Pamela Avedisian toward the construction of a new campus for the Avedisian School in Yerevan.

The first challenge will be to raise \$5 million in matching funds to build successfully a new school campus.

The AMAA plans to raise an additional \$8 million for the following projects and programs:

- Construction of a church and community center in Gyumri.
- Purchase and remodel churches in Europe.
- Remodel churches in Armenia.
- Purchase and remodel kindergartens in Armenia.
- Renovate schools, summer camps and churches in Lebanon, Syria, Europe and Armenia.
- Support schools in the United States, Middle East and Armenia.
- Start community and youth centers in the United States.
- Organize and implement leadership, internships and youth programs in all of our fields.

We take this opportunity to thank God for His abundant blessings upon our organization. We also thank those who generously participated in Phase I of our Capital Campaign by donating over \$11 million.

Our Phase I accomplishments include the following programs and projects:

- Supported and renovated summer camps in Lebanon, Armenia, Karabagh and the United States. These include major renovations in Sheen-Shoghig Camp, Bedrosian Camp and the Bezjian Building in Camp KCHAG, Lebanon.
- Supported and renovated Haigazian University in Lebanon, where over 800 students receive quality education. The Heritage building was completely renovated and the Sirpuhe Philibosian Conte Hall was dedicated on April 30, 2010.
- Renovation of the Baghramian Street Building, which houses the Yerevan Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia. The Center has become a beacon for preaching the Gospel, Evangelism, Discipleship and various cultural activities.



Future building of Avedisian School in Yerevan.



Pamela and Edward Avedisian, sponsors of the Avedisian School in Yerevan.

Armenian Evangelical Educational Institutions around the World

From the days of its inception, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been a strong advocate of education. It has provided moral, spiritual and financial support to Evangelical schools ranging from kindergarten to high school, to institutions of higher learning, such as Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology. These schools have been instrumental in shaping the character of thousands of Armenian students who have been productive citizens and who have served their communities as pastors, teachers, lay and community leaders.

In 1919, just one year after the establishment of the AMAA, the leadership embarked on a campaign to raise \$500,000 to renovate and remodel severely damaged or destroyed parochial schools in historic Armenia. It was estimated that over 400 schools were damaged by the Turks during the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately, due to the continued Turkish atrocities and massacres, this plan was never realized.

The AMAA renewed its plans to help build schools and churches mostly in the Middle East, where most of the Armenians had fled and sought refuge. Since then, the AMAA has taken an active role in supporting these schools and churches. Today, the AMAA supports over 25 Armenian Evangelical Schools in Armenia, the Middle East and North America. The AMAA provides financial assistance to over 1,000 students and helps the schools by providing financial assistance for their operation. The AMAA also provides scholarships to over 150 college and university students in Armenia, Lebanon and the United States.

The AMAA takes this opportunity to thank all of you who have consistently contributed to its Child Sponsorship and Child Education programs around the world. The AMAA invites you to join it by cheerfully sponsoring as many children as you can. A contribution of \$250 helps a child in achieving his/her dream to become a productive Armenian Christian citizen, contributing to the growth and betterment of the country in which they live.

ARMENIA & KARABAGH

Armenian Evangelical Avedisian School in Yerevan

The Khoren and Shoushanik Avedisian School is the jewel of our education programs in Armenia.

The AMAA, with the encouragement and cooperation of the Ministry of Education in Armenia, took a major leap of faith and started a school in the Bangladesh district, the poorest section of Yerevan. In 1999, the AMAA reopened the doors of a closed kindergarten and started a school by enrolling 75 students. The Avedisian



Avedisian School in Yerevan.

family became the major benefactors and sponsors of the school, and decided to name the school in memory of their parents, Khoren and Shoushanik Avedisian.

Each year the school added a new class and currently provides education from preschool to 9th grade students. The enrollment has grown to over 300 students with a long waiting list.

The school doors open at 8:00 am, and the full day program extends until 5:00 pm. The school provides an excellent education, which meets and exceeds the Ministry of Education standards. The curriculum includes Bible classes and foreign languages such as English, French and Russian. The extra-curricular activities include chess, choral, dance, drama, karate and other activities. In the past few years, the school won prizes in French and Russian language interschool competitions. The choral, dance and drama classes prepare and present a series of cultural and Christian programs to the community. These include programs for Vartanantz, April 24, Independence Day, Christmas, Easter and other programs. The teachers are dedicated and experienced educators, who consistently go the extra mile to help the children achieve their maximum potential. They often volunteer to stay after school to help the children with their homework assignments. They also visit sick students in their homes to help them stay current with their classroom programs. Several teachers have received awards and recognition from the Ministry of Education. In 2004, the school Principal, Melania Keghamian, received the "Outstanding Principal of the Year Award" from the Republic of Armenia's Minister of Education and Sciences.

All of these children attend school free of tuition. The school is supported by donors like you who make a difference in the lives of these children and their families. The AMAA invites you to join it in supporting such programs.

KINDERGARTENS

The kindergartens listed below are either owned, sponsored or supported through the AMAA. Students who attend these schools

come from poor families, are orphans or social orphans. Social orphans are children whose fathers are away from home either serving in the military or have left the country to seek employment outside the country. These children are provided with clothing, breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and a curriculum of a Christ centered education.

1. AMAA Kindergarten in Talin, Armenia was established in 2001. The average enrollment is about 50 and it is funded through the donations of George and Karen Daoudian, members of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA.

2. AMAA Kindergarten in Vanatzor, Armenia (Ara and Valia Ochinian KG) was established in 2005. The average enrollment is about 45.

3. AMAA Kindergarten in Stepanakert, Karabagh (Vatche & Elbiz Baghdkian KG) was established in 2000. The average attendance is about 110.



4. AMAA Kindergarten in Shushi, Karabagh (Charles & Doreen Bilezikian KG) was established in 2001. The average attendance is about 70.



5. AMAA Kindergarten in Azkeran, Karabagh was established in 2003. The average attendance is about 60.

6. AMAA Kindergarten in Martakert, Karabagh (Rev. Movses Janbazian KG) was established in 2003. Average attendance is about 70.



7. AMAA Kindergarten in Hatrut, Karabagh (Rev. Nerses & Nouritza Sarian KG) was established in 2003. Average attendance is about 65.

GREECE

The Armenian Evangelicals started two schools in Greece in 1923. One is in Derghouti, Athens and one is in Kokkinia, Piraeus. Due to emigration, the Derghouti School was closed in 1980.

Armenian Evangelical School in Kokkinia, Piraeus

This school was established in 1923. It started operating in tents and a factory building. In 1936, with generous donations from Dr. J. K. Mardin, Miss Olive Grim and Mr. Socrade Topalian, the Armenian Evangelical Church was able to purchase a property and build a school in memory of Mrs. Orlinda Pierce. The school operates as a kindergarten with an enrollment of 30 Armenian children.

LEBANON

Currently, there are six Armenian Evangelical schools in Lebanon. There are five schools in Beirut and one school in Ainjar. The AMAA also supports Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut. Most of our ministers, teachers and administrators have received their education in these institutions.

Armenian Evangelical Central High School – Beirut, Lebanon



The school was established in 1922 as the first Armenian Evangelical school in Lebanon. It serves the Ashrafieh and Bourdj Hammoud areas, which are heavily populated by Armenians. The school provides a kindergarten through 12th grade baccalaureate education. Prior to the Lebanese Civil War, it had an enrollment of over 600 students. Currently, the enrollment is about 270. Over 1,600 students have graduated from this school. The school takes pride in the high success rate its graduates achieve in government exams and university entrance exams. The school has a strong alumni organization in Los Angeles. The graduates of the school raise funds annually to support their alma mater.

Yeprem and Martha Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College – Beirut, Lebanon



Armenian Evang'I College, Beirut.

This is the only Armenian school in the West section of Beirut. It serves the students in the neighborhood and accepts students from the suburbs. The school provides kindergarten through a 12th grade education. At its peak, it had over 800 students. Currently, the enrollment is about 120. It has over 1,500 graduates. The success rate of the school's graduates is most exemplary, constantly receiving highest recognitions and awards. In 2008, the school was recognized by the Ministry of Education in Armenia for its services and was named as one of the "Top 5 Best Armenian Schools" in the Diaspora. It also received recognition from the World Armenian Congress. Dr. Zaven Messerlian, the school's Principal for 50 years, was awarded the Medal of Education by the President of Lebanon. The school has two alumni organizations in the United States, which meet annually to renew friendships and support the school.

Armenian Evangelical High Shamlian Tatigian School – Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon



Armenian Evang'I Shamlian-Tatigian High School, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon.

The school was founded in 1934. It serves the heavily Armenian populated area of Bourdj Hammoud. The school provides a kindergarten to 12th grade education. It has become a center of Armenian heritage and culture. Due to emigration, unemployment and poor economic conditions, the school's enrollment has dropped from 800 students to about 340 students. The average rate of success in government exams and university entrance exams has been 90%. About 1,700 students have graduated from this school. This school has a great potential to reach out and provide financial assistance to needy Armenian children and give them a strong Christian education.

Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Ainjar



Armenian Evang'I Secondary School, Ainjar.

The Armenian Evangelical secondary school of Ainjar was established in 1939 when the seven villages of Musa Dagh were displaced from their homeland and brought to Ainjar under the supervision of the French government. The first edifice built was a church which was also used as a school, divided into six classrooms by curtains. In 1946, the Swiss based missionary organization, Hilfsbund, provided much needed financial assistance and leadership. Under the leadership of missionaries, Sisters Hedvig, Mary and Hanna, the school expanded and started a boarding school. Prior to the Civil War, in the early 1960s, the school had over 800 students. Most of the students were boarding students from various towns in Lebanon. The school also accepted students from Syria, Egypt, Iran, India, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France and other countries. The camaraderie of the students who attended this school is highly exemplary.

Currently, the school has about 250 students from kindergarten to 12th grade. About one third of the students are boarding students who come from poor and socially broken families. The school takes pride in its graduates, many of whom have taken leadership roles in the Armenian community worldwide.

Armenian Evangelical Torosian School – Dora, Lebanon

The school started as a kindergarten in 1951. Over the years, classes were added to bring the school to the intermediate level and, in 1972, it started a 9th grade. The school serves the Dora area, the northern section of Beirut which is heavily populated by Armenians. It has about 230 students. A record 450 students were enrolled in



Armenian Evang'I Torosian School, Dora, Lebanon.

the late 1970s. Students in grade 9 participate in the official Brevet exams with an 80% success rate. Since 1973, over 500 students have graduated from grade 9. Most graduates continue their education in one of the three Armenian Evangelical high schools in Beirut.

Armenian Evangelical Gertmenian School – Nor Hadjin, Beirut



Armenian Evang'I Gertmenian School, Nor Hadjin, Beirut.

Gertmenian School is an elementary school. It provides kindergarten to a 5th grade education. It was established in 1931 and serves the heavily Armenian populated area of Nor Hadjin in Beirut. The average enrollment was 250 for many years. The current enrollment is about 110. The students come from the Rawda area in the eastern part of Beirut. Over the years, 1,215 students have graduated from the school and continue their education in one of the three Armenian Evangelical high schools in Beirut. This school serves the poorest of the poor and it is the only Armenian Evangelical School which is subsidized by the government.

SYRIA

Currently, there are six schools that operate under the leadership of Armenian Evangelical Unions. There are four schools in Aleppo, one school in Damascus and one school in Kessab. It is important to note that many of the Evangelical leaderships over the past 50 years have come from the Aleppo and Kessab schools. Aleppo College was one of the best institutions providing an excellent education

for the young Armenians who were displaced from their homeland, historic Armenia.

Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School



Armenian Evang'I Bethel Secondary School, Aleppo, Syria.

The school was established in Aleppo-Syria in 1923. The city of Aleppo had become a center for the Armenian immigrants who were expelled from their homeland, historic Armenia. Over the past 12 years, the school has expanded from being an elementary school to a full 12 year program. The enrollment has increased regularly and currently, it has about 340 students.

The expansion into a high school program has provided the much needed Armenian, Christian and quality education to the Armenian youth in Aleppo. The Educational Council and the Central Committee of the UAECNE are highly commended for their efforts. The Ministry of Education of Aleppo recognized the school for its achievements. The school takes pride in the 95-100% success rate of their graduates in their Brevet and Baccalaureate exams. The school estimates there have been about 3,000 students who have graduated from elementary and secondary grades.

Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel School

The Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel School was established in Aleppo, Syria in 1926. The school has 445 students and continues to receive the high ranking of the Ministry of Education in Aleppo. It has also received the appreciation and admiration of the representatives of the Arab Syrian Educational Committee. The students are mostly non-Armenian and come from the local high class Arab community. The estimated number of graduates over the years is 2,500.

Syriac Evangelical Elementary School

Syriac Evangelical Elementary School was founded in 1932 in Aleppo, Syria under the name of "Barakat" School. In the past, it was an Armenian Evangelical school. In 1953, the name was changed to Syriac Evangelical School, as most students come from a Syriac background. The school has 220 students. The estimated number of graduates over the years is 2,500.

Aleppo College for Girls

This college has a unique historic background and it is worth reviewing it. It was first established in 1876 in Aintab as a Christian College by the American Mission Board of Aintab. Most of the students who attended the college were the children of Armenian Protestants with a few non-Protestants and some non-Armenian students. After the Turkish atrocities, the college was relocated in Aleppo in 1924 and was called Aleppo College. This school was the hub of Armenian students who became the

future leaders of the Armenian community in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus.

Currently, the college is under the direct supervision of a board of trustees that is appointed by the Central Committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. The current enrollment is about 460 students of whom only four are Armenian students.

Armenian Evangelical “Genats” Elementary School – Damascus, Syria

Armenian Evangelical “Genats” Elementary School was founded in 1953 in Damascus, Syria. Currently, the student body consists of mainly non-Armenians. The enrollment is about 155 students. Over the years, 1,200 students have graduated from “Genats” School.

Armenian Evangelical “Nahadagats” Elementary School, Kessab, Syria



Armenian Evang'I "Nahadagats" School, Kessab, Syria.

The Armenian Evangelical School in Kessab-Syria was established in 1859. This area consists of several Armenian towns where Armenians have resided for hundreds of years. Almost all of the residents were Armenians called *Kessabtsiz* (residents of Kessab). Thus, the school has historical and cultural values. Currently, the school has an enrollment of about 30 students. The number of graduates is estimated to be over 2,000 students.

UNITED STATES

The Armenian Missionary Association of American supports two Evangelical Schools in the United States: The Armenian Evangelical C. & E. Merdinian School in Sherman Oaks, CA and the Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School in Pasadena, CA.

Armenian Evangelical C. & E. Merdinian School

The Armenian Evangelical Merdinian School was established in 1982. Located in Sherman Oaks, CA, the school serves students from North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Studio City, Glendale and Granada Hills

The school provides pre-school to an 8th grade education and it is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The current enrollment is about 200. Students graduating from the 8th grade move to other high schools, score high marks and are ranked in the top 10% of the student body. During the last 28 years, 283 students have graduated from 8th grade.



Armenian Evang'I Merdinian School, Sherman Oaks, CA.

The Merdinian School believes in academic excellence, spiritual enrichment, moral guidance, social development and an optimum physical development. Following the Armenian Evangelical tradition of excellence in education, the school aims to provide a solid educational program beyond the requirements of the curricular framework of the State of California, religious instruction and spiritual guidance to help students develop a strong Christian character, and curricular enrichment which will enable students to acquire a thorough knowledge and full appreciation of the rich American and Armenian heritages.

Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School



Sahag Mesrob School, Pasadena, CA.

The school was established in 1980 and started in the basement of a church with 70 students, a faculty of nine and a budget of \$125,000. In 1983, through the generous donation of John Sheen (Hagop Geuvkalayjian), a major AMAA benefactor, the school purchased the property located at 2501 N. Maiden Lane in Altadena.

In 1988, the school became accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and by the Association of Christian School International (ACSI) for a term of six years. The school teaches the Bible, Armenian language and history, and exceeds all academic requirements. The graduates consistently score high on their SAT tests, enroll in Advance Placement (AP) programs in private and public high schools and achieve high honor rolls.

During 2004-2005, the school started a high school program, starting with the 9th grade. The enrollment increased by over 50%. In 2005, the school enrollment reached 375 students. The school's program was evaluated by WASC and ACSI and granted full accreditation from kindergarten to 12th grade.

In 2006, the school expanded to the 12th grade and offered U.C. approved college preparatory courses. Currently, the school has an enrollment of about 320 students. □

Haigazian University's 55th Anniversary Celebrates Past Presidents

By Joyce Abdulian

Haigazian University's 55th Anniversary Banquet, held November 12 at the Glendale CA Hilton Hotel, was both a reunion and celebration with University Presidents, Alumni, and members of the Women's Auxiliary and Board attending. Today, Haigazian graduates, representing many races, creeds and nationalities, serve in prominent positions world-wide bringing pride to their alma mater.

Raffi Kendirjian, Co-Chair of the 55th Anniversary Celebratory Committee and a Haigazian University graduate and past instructor of accounting at the University, welcomed those present. "We are being called to duty by our alma mater to establish a Haigazian University Alumni Association here in North America," said Kendirjian. "We should all step up to the

plate in support of the institution that made a difference in our lives."

Master of Ceremonies Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and a Haigazian Alumnus, guided the evening through the introductions of the four past presidents in attendance: Rev. Dr. John Markarian, Rev. Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, also a Haigazian Alumnus. Event Co-Chairs Dr. Ani Darakjian and Raffi Kendirjian presented each president with an etching of the Haigazian Mugar Building created by Mrs. John (Inge) Markarian.

A short video presentation by current President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, evoked many fond memories of the University. The popular and versatile Element Band, with its unique instruments and trademark arrangements, created excitement.

Mrs. Joyce Stein introduced the evening's honoree, Founding President Rev. Dr. John Markarian. Mrs. Stein represented the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, which has been one of the great supporters of the University over the decades.

Mr. Filian introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Manoug Manougian, who taught math and physics at Haigazian in the 1960s and created the rocket program which launched the first rocket in the Middle East.



Haigazian University presidents Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, Rev. Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian, and Rev. Dr. John Markarian.

The commemorative booklet included messages from each of the presidents and from many dignitaries. The generous sponsors were an indication of the prestige Haigazian University has in the academic world, and with its many long-time supporters.

Mrs. Stein, who was the Haigazian Women's Auxiliary President for over a decade, surprised the gathering with a \$55,000 donation to the University from the Conte and Philibosian Foundations, in honor of the 55th anniversary. The Haigazian Women's Auxiliary, which participated in the planning of the evening with alumni and were duly honored at the event, has raised over \$1,000,000 for scholarships and University needs over the last 50 years.

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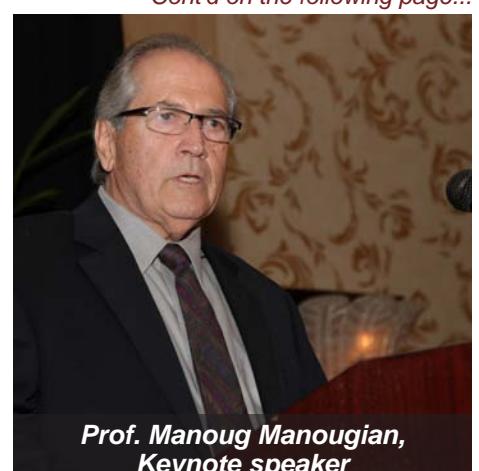
Joyce Philibosian Stein



Raffi Kendirjian, Banquet Co-Chair



Levon Filian, Master of Ceremonies



Prof. Manoug Manougian,
Keynote speaker

A Brilliant Record of Haigazian University

By Prof. Mihran Agbabian

Haigazian University is the story of an institution that started 55 years ago with a modest beginning and reached its present eminence as an educational center in the entire Middle East.

I first heard about Haigazian College (the name changed to Haigazian University in 1996) 55 years ago when Rev. Puzant Kalfayan, Executive Secretary of AMAA, visited California and informed us that AMAA had plans to start a college in Beirut, Lebanon. He said that the founding President would be John Markarian of Lafayette College, and two benefactors, Stephen Philibosian and Steven Mehagian, who were providing the initial funds. He hoped that a group would be formed in California to continue providing financial support. The challenge inspired Virginia Harikian to form the Women's Auxiliary that continues to work diligently for Haigazian until today. Joyce Philibosian Stein joined the Auxiliary and is active in raising funds for the University including annual contributions from the Stephen Philibosian Foundation.

Several years after the Women's Auxiliary was started, it became known that the AMAA Board had decided to transfer the Board of Trustees to the West Coast and had asked Henry Gertmenian to serve as Chair. An enthusiastic group joined Henry and a new Board of Trustees came into existence. Several years later, the chairmanship was passed on to Dr. Rendel Levonian who served in that capacity for many years with great diligence. Others on the Board included Dr. Jirair Sarian as Treasurer, Helen Barsoumian Grimsley as Secretary, Harold Demirjian and me. The present Board, chaired by Hrair Mouradian and now by Dr. Ani Darakjian, is the continuation of that initial group that devoted many years to the financial support of the University. In 1980, during a visit by founding President John Markarian, some of the Board members, including Virginia Harikian, were granted the Honorary Doctorate of Haigazian as recognition of their service.

The above summary highlights the contribution of the West Coast Armenian community to the support of Haigazian as it grew to become the eminent educational center that we now know. It is important to note here that John Markarian's book, *The Thirsty Enemy, A Memoir*, provides the reader with

a complete history of Haigazian, the experience of the President and his wife in Beirut during the years of turmoil in the 1970s, the administrative crises, and the strength and will of the University to overcome all difficulties. At times, when the College needed the full support of the community, there were those who, having disagreed with some of the policies of the administration, caused great difficulties. Fortunately, the main leadership was in support of the policies of the College.



There is a parallel with the American University of Beirut, whose growth from its start as Syrian Protestant College to the mature University that it now is, faced difficulties that it conquered, in many respects similar to that of Haigazian. For example, during the World War I period and after it, in 1919, there was political pressure to yield the independent administration to the ruling parties, and at other times there was pressure from the Missionary groups supporting the University to proselyte the Moslem students. President Bliss categorically refused to do so and he said: "It will be impossible for any one to continue with us long without knowing what we believe to be the truth and our reasons for that belief." I have known President John Markarian, and I believe that he also stood firm in his convictions, and the students respected him and accepted the University's policies. It is also worth mentioning that this principle was maintained by the successor presidents, Gilbert Bilezikian, Verne Fletcher, John Khanjian, and Paul Haidostian. During the war years, Wilma Cholakian, as acting president, fulfilled all the administrative needs of the University.

And what is the most important achievement of Haigazian University? It is the quality of the students (both Armenians and non-Armenians) who graduate, having received an excellent education, and who enter the professional world ready to serve the Middle East and the world at large. □

Haigazian University.... cont'd from page 16

Clergy representing the Diocese, Prelacy, Catholic and Evangelical churches shared their congratulations and best wishes. Also present were representatives of the three Armenian Political Parties, the AGBU, as well as the Lebanese American Foundation and notable academic and community groups and The Honorable Grigor Hovhannessian, Counsul General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles. Many members of the Board of Trustees from Lebanon and the United States were also present: Gary Phillips, Esq., Seta Karagozian, Robert Kurkjian, Annie

Boujikanian, Prof. Dr. J. B.M. Kassarjian, Albert Momjian, Esq., Herair Mouradian, Dr. Ani Darakjian, Nabil Ekmekji, John Sagherian, Rev. Robert Sarkissian, Dr. Haroutune Nicolian, Dr. Joseph Zeronian, Louis Kurkjian, Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Dr. Hrag Marganian, Hratch Sarkis, Dr. Ann Sarafian, Rev. Megdich Melconian, Joyce Stein, Levon Filian, and Dr. H. Steven Aharonian.

What began as a dream of the late Dr. Armenag Haigazian, (and carried out in 1955 by his descendants, the Mehagian family), Stephen Philibosian, and the AMAA, became this shining reality

of an institution that never denied any qualified Armenian student admission. The only Armenian University outside of Armenia, Haigazian University survived the trauma of the civil war in Lebanon under the leadership of Dr. John Markarian, followed by ten years of dedicated leadership under Wilma Cholakian, Administrative Dean. With each subsequent president bringing his own expertise and talents, Haigazian University has become one of the most highly regarded and premier educational institutions in the Middle East, bringing pride to Armenians all over the world. □

Christian Education Programs In Yerevan

The AMAA organizes and supports Christian Education programs in eight districts in Yerevan, including Arabkir, Kentron, Zeytun, South-West District, Shahumyan, Shengavit, Charbakh, and Nork Masiv.

Each Center has Biblical lessons and worships designed especially for children, teens and youth. Each group consists of 20-80 children, teens and youth and nearly 800 members attend these activities.

Over 120 volunteers help lead the groups by telling Bible stories, praising and teaching spiritual and national songs, conducting outdoor and indoor games, holding group discussions with teens and youth on different topics, and organizing excursions and sightseeing trips in Armenia. The volunteers, who have theological and pedagogical education, are experienced in working with children, teens and youth and treat them with kindness and love. When the volunteers train in Yerevan and in other countries, they participate in sports, arts and crafts, and Bible teaching seminars organized by AMAA, ECA and other organizations. During their training, the volunteers learn how to help make the participants learn Christian values and develop moral convictions.

Other programs and activities are also held in these Centers for over 400 children, teens and youth. They include educational, sports, cultural, arts and crafts, choir, dancing, and drama. The children's and teen's handmade works, including drawings, needlework, sewing, knitting, woodcarvings and ceramics, are often exhibited in Yerevan.



“Hayasa” is an ECA Yerevan drama group that presents performances on Christmas and Easter. Hundreds of children, teens and youth participate in these performances. The non-professional actors use their time and talents for the glory of God and they develop their God-given skills. Christmas dramas for children are very amusing, joyful and colourful. They are based on the birth of Jesus Christ and convey the meaning and importance of His birth by telling the plan of God’s salvation. Easter dramas are mostly based on Jesus’ resurrection. “Hayasa” also presented a drama dedicated to the memory of Hrant Dink, who was assassinated in Turkey. After each drama, the audience always expressed its excitement and appreciation.

The AMAA expresses its appreciation to all of the organizations for their contributions to these programs and, in particular, Hope for Armenia (President Serge Kurkdjian), VCF (President Ruben Kiredjian) and SEL (Director Pascal Vermes). □



Teen activities at Huysi Tun, in Shengavit, Yerevan.



Children's activities at Huysi Tun, in Zartork Center, Yerevan.



Children of Charbakh & Shahumyan Centers with Musician Ara Gevorkian.

A Family Touched by Christ

This is the story of the Petrosyan family members who live in Stepanakert, the capital of Karabagh. Through the AMAA Sponsorship Program, the family members found Christ and their lives were totally changed.

In 2001, following a visit with the Petrosyan family by the AMAA social workers, Mariam, age 7, was placed in AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program. Mariam has three sisters – Arous, Anoush and Rita. Their father, Samson, has no permanent job and their mother, Arev, is a housewife. Their grandparents, Gourgen and Dousia, also live with the family. It is unimaginably difficult for this family to survive. Hope came to them through the AMAA Sponsorship Program. Even with the limited financial help, the family learned that it had a caring friend.

In addition to the financial and material assistance provided by AMAA, Mariam and her siblings became involved in AMAA's programs, including Sunday School, camps, arts and crafts and music activities.

Anoush, through the encouragement of her friends, participated in AMAA Summer Camp. She became inspired by God's love, began attending youth group and later joined the Church. The family now attends Church regularly and their lives have totally changed. Arous graduated from Artsakh University, faculty of jurisprudence with honors. Anoush is studying music and is in her third year at the conservatory. Rita, the youngest sister, is in the 5th grade.

The Petrosyan family is grateful to God for the AMAA and the AMAA Child Sponsorship Program. Thanks to the support



Petrosyan Family

provided by Mariam's sponsor, they were led to Christ and continue to enjoy God's love and His comfort and peace.

The AMAA's Armenia Child Sponsorship Program has touched and changed the lives of thousands of children in Armenia and Karabagh. Through the loving care of sponsors and the efforts of AMAA Orphan & Child Care and the Summer Camp and Christmas Committees, children and their families have seen the light and are certain of a brighter future.

There are thousands more children in Armenia who need help. We pray that God will lead you to come forward and make a difference in the lives of your families. Please contact the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) or visit the website at www.amaa.org to make a difference. □

AMAA Awards \$120,000 in College Scholarships to U.S. Students

According to Robert Hekemian, Jr., Chairman of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Scholarship Committee, 63 students applied for assistance this year. The Committee met for three days and carefully reviewed each applicant's file. "It was hard to reject even the very few who did not qualify, based on financial and academic guidelines," said Mr. Hekemian. "We awarded scholarships to 56 students for a total of \$120,000." In addition, \$15,000 was awarded to qualified university students in Armenia.

"Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the kind and generous support of the AMAA Scholarship Committee," wrote Alene, one of the scholarship recipients. "I will take great pride in the future to become a part of this wonderful organization and a part of its goal in providing assistance to students striving to fulfill their educational dreams." Alene, a student attending UCLA, is one of the 56 college students in the United States who received scholarship assistance from the AMAA for the 2010-11 academic year.

For the past 90 years, the AMAA has helped thousands of students from kindergarten to high school with tuition aid and hundreds of college students with scholarships. Aid has also been directly given to schools and institutions of higher education, including Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut and the Theological Academy in Yerevan, Armenia.

The scholarships granted this year were provided from several AMAA scholarship funds established over the years to help students in need. Qualified students can request applications in writing from AMAA headquarters in Paramus, NJ starting in January of each year. The deadline to submit applications for the 2011-2012 academic year is May 1, 2011. □

Ararat Armenian Congregational Church Of Salem Celebrates AMAA Sunday

On Sunday, September 19, the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem, NH celebrated AMAA Sunday. Rev. Dr. Ara Heghinian welcomed the congregation to the special Sunday Worship. Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, participated in the Worship Service by giving the children's message and sharing God's word with the congregation. The message was "Having Complete Joy." Following the Worship Service, the church members hosted a delicious luncheon. Mr. Filian discussed the AMAA mission, thanked them for their support and asked for their continued prayers and participation in the AMAA mission. The Youth Group and Sunday School children also participated in the luncheon program.



During his trip to Salem, Mr. Filian visited Thomas and Helen Voskerjian and Daniel Donabedian and had the opportunity to share the joys and concerns of the Church with Church Moderator John Janigian. He was also the dinner guest of Stephen Bottomley and Jeanmarie Papelian. □

Among Old Friends At Pilgrim Church in Fresno

by Rev. Ara Guekguezian

On a beautiful November Sunday afternoon in California's Central Valley, a group of Pilgrims gathered to give thanks for the Harvest.

Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, addressed the congregation of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno, CA at its annual Harvest Banquet, leading us to focus on the theme of "Heavenly Harvest." Using the episode of the ten lepers as the touchstone, Mr. Filian stirred in us a spirit of gratitude and a desire to respond with faithful service, begin-

ning from where we are. We were encouraged to be like the one in ten.

Truly a beautiful day – delicious food, a thoughtful and challenging word and the warm fellowship of family and friends, old and new. The last time Levon and Badveli Ara were together in Fresno, Levon was standing by Ara as he was getting married 27 years ago. We expect him back sooner, to visit his mom and family, at the very least. □

Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church Celebrates its 85th Anniversary

Over 250 attendees and dignitaries gathered at the Royal Palace Banquet Hall on November 5 to rejoice and celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale, California.

Board Chair Aram Karsian and his wife, Vartuhi, welcomed the guests and thanked God for the many years bestowed upon the Church. Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghiayan, President of Mashdots College, blessed the evening by delivering the invocation. Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian congratulated those in attendance and wished the Church much success in the years to come as a pillar of the Armenian community. Bringing greetings from the Armenian Evangelical Ararat Church of Utah, Pastor Gevork Paronyan rejoiced on the growing presence of the faithful and thanked God for blessing the Church for the past 85 years.

Banquet Committee member Hakop Hovanesyan read several letters congratulating AEBC on this milestone from dignitaries and public officials, including California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), was the keynote speaker and urged the Church to continue the glory of God and to spread His Holy Word.

AEBC has been blessed to have many wonderful and faithful supporters. Attendees joined together in a special cake-cutting ceremony in recognition of Ohan Shahan on his 85th birthday and



Banquet attendees enjoying the evening festivities.

Roma Swan was recognized for her many years as a steadfast supporter. Banquet attendees also had the distinct pleasure of listening to a Psalms recitation by Bedig Mardikian, a musical performance by Meroojan Markaryan, poetic recitations of Grigor Ogaryan, and vocal selections of Anahit Nercessyan.

The event adjourned with Reverend Dikran Shanlian expressing gratitude for the tireless efforts of all those involved and blessing the attendees with a closing benediction.

The evening was made possible by the 85th Anniversary Banquet Committee consisting of Board Chair Aram Karsian, Banquet Chair Gevork Simdjian, and members Nazik Balabanian, Mariam Balabanian, Arthur Hekimyan, Lusine Hekimyan, Hakop Hovanesyan, Suzy Hovanesyan, Anahit Tiratsuyan, and Sioni Shanlian. □

First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal Commemorates Its 50th Anniversary

The First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal hosted a banquet on November 6 to commemorate its milestone 50th anniversary.

Master of Ceremonies, Raffi Shnorhokian, welcomed the guests. Following the Canadian and Armenian National Anthems and the singing of the hymn, "Praise the Lord" in Armenian, Aram Lapajian gave a prayer of thanksgiving. The Chairman of the Board, Chahe Bakmazjian, reminded everyone of how far the Church has come and led a toast to its future.

Among the many guests were prior ministers and preachers of the Church. Rev. Jean Zarifian, pastor of the Sister Church, gave words of encouragement and acknowledged Sarkis and Pailig Hanenian's faithful service to the Church for the past 50 years. Brother Barkev Talaslian of the Montreal Armenian Brotherhood Church acknowledged the founders of the Church and recognized all those who believed and saw a future in it.

Former Pastor Rev. Hovhannes Melkonian, reminded the guests of the scripture found in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ." He



Cutting the celebratory cake are (l to r) Mrs. Priscilla Dabbo, Mr. Sarkis Hanenian, Mrs. Pailig Hanenian and Rev. George Dabbo.

also said, "Nothing is better than to see a child of the Church become a leader and worker in the Church and wished that the Lord would strengthen us as men and women of God." Reverend Hovsep Hovsepian encouraged Church members and brought greetings from the Temple Baptist Church of Montreal. Minister

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Children Helping Children Event in Boston Raises Over \$50,000 for Armenian Children

With over 185 people in attendance, the 15th Annual "Children Helping Children" event held on October 28 at the Wellesley Country Club in Wellesley, MA, raised over \$50,000 dollars to benefit children in Armenia. The event was organized by the Boston Region Orphan and Child Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). The luncheon event featured inspiring performances by the students of St. Stephens Armenian Elementary School and the Armenian Sisters Academy. Hosts for the afternoon, television personalities Mike Wankum and Chris Talianian, lifted hearts and spirits during the exciting live and silent auctions. The Committee is most grateful for the participation of all donors and guests whose generosity made a difference in the lives of many children. Anyone who would like to sponsor a child, make a donation, or join the Committee is invited to contact Michele Simourian at 508-785-0569. □



Some of the Boston Region Orphan/Child Care Committee members. Standing (l to r) Stephanie Goldstein, Carolyn Eurdolian, Joyce Janjigian and Michele Simourian. Seated (l to r) Susan Covo and Candace Simourian.



Students of St. Stephens Armenian Elementary School performing.

Communion Sets Donated by Armenian Evangelical Churches in the US

We requested, you responded!

Recently, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) made a request from our churches in the United States to sponsor or donate Communion sets for our churches in Armenia.

With your generous response, we were able to provide these needs to seven churches in Armenia, namely Artashat, Talin, Ichevan, Stepanavan, Alaverdi, Tumanian, and Armanvir.

We, at the AMAA, want to express our sincere thanks to the members of the donor churches for their generous response. May God abundantly bless you and your church family. □

First Armenian Evang'I Church, Montreal... Cont'd from page 19

to the Union, Rev. Joseph Matossian, reiterated the Church's many accomplishments and encouraged members to support it especially as Armenians, and to build it even stronger. He acknowledged the hard work of Pastor Rev. George Dabro, and honored the Church with a plaque.

Sarkis Hanenian, Chairman of the Banquet, gave a historic look at the 50 years of service marking this anniversary, and charted the course for future accomplishments and milestones. He urged Church members to "renew their heritage while keeping faith as we live through the legacy of 50 years of service."

Special musical guest, Daniel Decker, helped celebrate with songs of praise including "You are Holy" and "Noah's Prayer." He closed with a song about Arax, the famous Armenian river. Shoushanik Melkonian recited two beautiful and powerful compilations. Video dialogue was presented with words of encouragement from members and servants of the Church, as well as a surprise interview conducted with the Sunday School children who gave words of gratitude.

Keynote speaker was Rev. Gilbert Leonian from France who reminded us about priorities and that we should always be striving to do the best in God's work force. He said "we must conquer everything through Christ and let the Bible be a light in our life and that we have to build our foundation on Christ by reading the scriptures on a daily basis. If we put God first, He will reward us." Rev. Leonian congratulated the First Armenian Evangelical Church on its 50th anniversary, and extended his best wishes for a bright future through committed service, and a spiritual journey of faith to become the driving force of the church.

The evening closed with Badveli Dabro's words of thanksgiving and congratulatory remarks followed by the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" as all ministers present joined in a benediction.

The celebration continued with two Evangelistic services with Rev. Gilbert Leonian on November 9 and 10 and concluded with a concert by Daniel Decker on November 12. □

Armenian Evangelical World Council Meets In Paramus, NJ

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director, AEWC

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its Annual Meeting on October 15, at the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, New Jersey. Representatives from five Armenian Evangelical Unions, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Stephen Philibosian Foundation (SPF) were in attendance.

Following the opening remarks and prayer, AEWC President Rev. Haroutune Selimian called the meeting to order.

Old Business

Under old business the following two items were discussed:

- a. The amendments of Armenia's constitution on freedom of religion and its ramifications regarding the issue of proselytism. The proposed law has not been ratified by the parliament of Armenia. Regardless of its outcome, however, the Evangelical Church of Armenia will continue to carry out its ministry within the parameters of the country's law.
- b. The dialogue with the Holy See of Etchmidzin is proceeding as usual. **It was resolved to augment the AEWC delegation by three new members.**

New Business

Under new business, the Board acted on the following items:

1. **Documents and correspondence.** The Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, compiled all the documents and correspondence from 1978 to 2009 and had them bound in 12 volumes. These volumes are now placed in the AEWC archives at the AMAA Headquarters. **It was resolved to thank Rev. Tootikian for his efforts of compiling these important AEWC documents and correspondence for the past 31 years.**
2. **Leadership Training Program.** The leadership training program for the pastors, Christian education directors and social workers of the Evangelical Church of Armenia was discussed at length. **It was resolved to hold a 7 to 10 day intensive program for all sometime during the first part of September 2011, led by three ministers from the Unions of France, the Near East and North America.**
3. **The Evangelical Theological Academy.** A comprehensive report on the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia was presented by the AEWC and AMAA representative, Rev. Rene Léonian. The Board began to make its evaluation. **It was resolved to continue the evaluation process.**
4. **Elections.** Elections for the term of 2011-2012 were held and the following were elected: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, President; Rev. Dr. Rene Léonian, Vice President; Rev. Megerditch Karagoezian, Secretary; Albert Momjian, Esq., Treasurer; and Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director.
5. **Worldwide Evangelistic Television Program.** The Armenian Evangelical Union of France is planning to participate in an international Evangelistic television program and invited other unions to do the same. **It was resolved that each union makes its decision whether or not to participate in this program.**
6. **Reports.** The reports of the officers and member organizations of AEWC were submitted. **It was resolved to receive them with thanks.**
7. **It was resolved to thank the AMAA for playing host for the AEWC's Annual Meeting.**
8. **Date and venue of the next meeting. It was resolved to hold the next meeting of the Executive Committee of AEWC on October 14, 2011 at the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood, CA.**

The meeting was adjourned by the closing remarks and prayer of Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian. □

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(Դուկաս 2. 1-21)

Վեր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեան*

Ս յստեղ արձանագրուած հատուածը, երբ կը սկսի «Այս օրերը Օգոստոս Կայսրէն հրաման աշխարհագիրը եղաւ Կիւրենոսի Սիւրիոյ վրայ կուսակալութիւն ըրած ատեն»...» տողերով. յանկա՞րծ, մեր վրայ այն տպաւորութիւնը կը ձգէ, որ մարդկային ցեղի պատմութեան, փոփոխարքութեան եւ երեւյթներու եղելութիւններուն մէջ իշխանութիւնն ունեցողը Օգոստոս Կայսրն էր: Իր կուսակալութեան օրերուն՝ մարդկային արդարամտութենէն, դատողութենէն եւ աշխարհագիրը մտնելու հրաւերէն կախեալ էր տեղի ունենալիք դէպքերը: Սակայն, երբ հաւատքի աչքերով դիտուած կը հետեւինք դէպքերուն յաջորդականութեան, մենք կը տեսնենք, թէ Օգոստոս Կայսրը, մարդկօրէն մարդկութեան վրայ իշխանութիւնն ունեցողն էր, բայց մարդկային սեղի պատմութիւնը եւ բովանադակութիւնը իր ձեռքերուն մէջ բոնողը՝ յստիւնական միմիայն Աստուածն է:

Հո՞ս, Աստուածոյ անբաժանելի եւ բացարձակ կամքն է, որ աշխարհի վրայ ի գործ կը դրուի, եւ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսի ծնունդի նախօրերուն, աւետիսը յատուկ ձեւով կը տրուի՝ շատ յատուկ մարդոց միջամտութեամբ: Սոյն խորհրդածութեան տողերուն ընդմէջէն, պիտի տեսնենք, թէ Աստուածոյ սրտին որքան մօտիկ ծրագիր էր, Իր Աստուածութիւնը յափշտակութիւն չսեպել, երկնքի մէջ պահուելու ու պահպանուելու ջանահրութեան մէջ չմնալ, եւ աշխարհ գալ, որպէսի մարդուն հետ ըլլայ, ու յատուկ ծրագիրով մարդու դէպի Զինք հրաւիրէ:

Խօսքը ընդհանրապէս այն է, որ «Աստուած մարմնացաւ ու մարդացաւ», այսինքն՝ յատուկ ծրագիրով կերպարանք առաւ եւ մարդուն համար, մարդու կերպարանքով եկաւ: Միայն այս: Եթէ այդպէս է, ուրեմն մեր հոգեւոր վերլուծութիւնը վերջակէտ կը գտնէ եւ մենք մեր երեւակայութեան մէջ, Աստուած՝ դէպի աշխարհ, դէպի մարդկութիւն քաշած կը լլանք եւ այդպէս ընելով մեր մարդկային մտածողութեան մէջ վԱստուած ամփոփած, փոքրացուցած եւ նսեմացուցած կը լլանք: Այն ինչ որ կրնաս բռն մարդկային նորով եւ տրանաբանութեամբ հաւաքել եւ անփոփել, անոր վրայ իշխանութիւնն կ'ունենաս, եւ մենք պայպէս ընելով կը խորհինք, որ Աստուածոյ վրայ իշխանութիւնն ունինք, եւ փոխանակ սրտով հաւատալու եւ մտածելու, որ Ինք՝ Իր բացարձակ Աստուածային պատգամով մեր անձերուն եւ համայն մարդկութեան վրայ իշխանութիւնն ունի, կը փորձենք Անոր վրայ իշխել:

Այսպէս եթէ մտածենք, կը տեսնենք, թէ մեր մտածողութեամբ չենք կրնար Աստուածոյ ծրագիրը դէպի աշխարհ բերել: Պէտք է հասկնանք, որ Աստուածոյ ծրա-

գիրը աշխարհ գալ էր, որպէսի մարդու իր ինկած վիճակին մէջէն առնէ, իր քովլքերէ ու խաչին միջոցաւ վեր բարձրացնէ: Աստուածոյ երկինքէն երկիր գալը Իր ծրագիրն էր, եւ ո՛չ թէ մարդոց աղօթքներուն եւ աղերսներուն պատասխանը: Ուրեմն, սիրելինքն էր, եթէ այս էր Աստուածոյ կամքը, կը նշանակէ, թէ Աստուածոյ ծրագիրը իրականութեան եւ ամբողջականութեան կը համարի, երբ որ դրապէս անդրադարձ կ'ունենանք մեզի տրուած աւետիսին, պատգամին եւ նախաձեռնութեան:



Ի՞նչ էր նախաձեռնութիւնը:

Նախաձեռնութիւնը, որ Աստուած Իր Միածին Որդին աշխարհ դրկեց, մարդկօրէն անտէր-անտիրական ծնունդով, մատրին մէջ իանձնարուրի մէջ փաթթուած, եւ Ան մարդացաւ ու մարմնացաւ՝ մարդոց մեղքերուն փրկութիւն շնորհելու, անոնց միտքը իաղաղեցնելու եւ անոնց հոգիի ու մտքի անդրորութիւնը պահելու: Այս լուրը հրեշտակներուն կողմէ հովիներուն տրուեցաւ, եւ ո՛չ թէ Օգոստոս Կայսրին, կամ իր կուսակալութեան մէջ եղող արքունիքի պատասխանատուներուն:

Որո՞նք են հովիները:

Ընկերութեան մէջ այն պարզ խաւն է, որ դէպքերու մեկնաբանութեան մէջ ամսկեղծ է, միեւնոյն ատեն խիպահ՝ ձշմարտութիւնը յայտնելու եւ փոխանցելու: Ուրեմն Աստուած մարդկութեան մէջէն կ'ընտրէ այն հատուածը, որ՝ ե՛ւ թափանցիկ է, ե՛ւ ամսկեղծ, ե՛ւ հարազատ ու միամգամայն խիպահ՝ ձշմարտութիւնը բաժնելու եւ բաժնելուց համար: Հրեշտակները, երբ այս հովիներուն աւետիս կու տան, կ'ըսեն. «Տիրոջ փառքը անոնց բոլորտիքը կը ծագի»: Ուրեմն այս ծագումը այսպիսի մթնոլորտ եւ կենսոլորտ մը կը ստեղծէ, որուն մէջ ծնունդ կը ստանայ տրուելիք պատգամը:

Պատահականութիւն չէ, որ Աստուածոյ պատգամը օդին մէջ չէ եղած: Պատահականութիւն չէ, որ Անոր նախօրոք եւ յառաջիկայ պատահելիք դէպքերուն միջեւ շաղկապ մը գոյութիւն ունեցած է եւ այս ծրագիրը յատականալէ ետք է, որ Աստուածոյ փառքը անոնց բոլորտիքը կը ծագի: Հրեշտակը կ'ըսէ. «Մի՛ փախնաք», եւ մեծ որախութեամբ Յիսուսի ծնունդը կ'աւետէ: Այս

սովորական կամ պատահական ուրախութիւն մը չէ, այլ մեծ ուրախութեան աւետիսը, որ բոլոր ժողովորդինը պիտի ըլլայ:

Հրեշտակին տուած առաջին պատգամը չվախնազն էր: Այսօր, այս պատգամը որքան մատչելի է, յատկապէս պատերազմներ ապրող ժողովուրդներուն եւ ապօբեուն համար: Եթէ, մենք՝ լուրերուն, օրաթերթերուն տպատրութիւններուն եւ հաղորդագրութիւններուն հետեւինք, պիտի տեսնենք թէ շատ մը երկիրներ պատերազմներու մէջ են, եւ որքան մահեր, ու աշխարհի միջազգային նակարգակի վրայ որքան քաղաքական երուցերներ կան: Մենք պիտի տեսնենք շատեր, որոնք, իրենք-վիրենք մեծ պետութիւններ, նախազահներ, քագաւորներ կամ իշխանութիւն ունեցողներ նկատելով՝ պատգամ մը կը բերեն եւ խաղաղութեան դաշինքներ կը կնքեն: Երկիրներու եւ պետութիւններու վիճակուած է՝ սովորական մարդոց կեանքին մէջ խաղաղութիւն յառաջացնելը: Անոնք, իրենց շահագրգորդ մտածումներով եւ ծրագիրներով, մարդու սրտին մէջէն վախը վեցնել կը փորձեն: Արդեօր կը յաջողին...: Այո՛, անոնք հաւանաբար կրնան ցամաքէն, ծովէն եւ օդէն եկած վտանգները կասեցնել, սակայն, կրնան մարդու սրտին մէջ ծնած եւ ուրճացած վախը կասեցնել: Բացարձակապէս ո՛չ:

Այսօր մարդու սրտին մէջ ծնած մեծագոյն վախը, ո՛չ թէ իր դէմ տեղի ունենալիք պատերազմներու յայտարարութիւնն է, այլ անորոշութեան դէմ ստեղծուած վախն է: Ապագային մէջ, իր բանականութեամբ եւ խմացականութեամբ գուշակել չկարենալու բերումով ստեղծուած վախը: Մութ ապագան եւ աննախատեսելի պատահարները չգուշակելու վախը խտացուած մտահոգութենէն կը ծնի: Երբեմն ալ անձնասիրութեամբ օծուն վախեր կ'ապրինք: Վախ՝ մեր եսասիրութենէ, փառասիրութենէ, ընկերութեան մէջ մեր հանգամանքը կորանցնելէ, եւայլն...: Այս վախերը մեզ, իրենց հոլովոյթին մէջ յափշտակելով, գերի կը դարձնեն:

Ինչպէս պիտի ձերբազանուինք այս վախերէն:

Սիրելիներ, հրեշտակը կը խոստանայ մեծ ուրախութիւն եւ խաղաղութիւն բերել: Ուրախութիւն եւ խաղաղութիւն բառերը, Երայեցերէնի մէջ ալ նոյն արմատները ունին եւ այդ ուրախութիւնն ու խաղաղութիւնը, որոնք հրեշտակին միջոցաւ Տէրը մեզ կը խոստանայ, ո՛չ թէ պատերազմներու բացակայութիւնը, ապագան գիտնալը, գործերուն մէջ յաջողութիւն ձեռք բերելը, եւ ո՛չ ալ մեր շրջապատին հետ լաւ յարաբերութիւն մշակելն է, այլ ամբողջական վիճակ մը ստեղծելու նկարագրութիւնը՝ նիւթաբարդականի, հոգեբանականի եւ խմացականի հմաստով: Են ո՞վ ունի այդ խոստումը: Ո վ պիտի կրնայ այդ խաղաղութիւնը պարզեւել, նիւթապէս մեզ բարօր կեանք մը նուիրել, նարով մեզ խաղաղեցնել, մեր կառակներուն եւ լնտանիքի անտամներուն հետ ունեցած ծրագիրները յաջողութեամբ պսակել, իմ մեծնալու եւ տարածուելու մարմաջը իրականացնել, մեր եկեղեցիներուն ու եկեղեցական միութիւններու դիմագրաւած՝ ո՛չ իհմանական հարցերն ու դժուարութիւնները հարթել, ու իրապաշտօրին մեր ապային ինքնութիւնը վտանգէ պահել:

Սիրելի՝ հաւատացեալներ, մտքի եւ սրտի խաղաղութիւնը կը գերադասէ ֆիվիքական խաղաղութեան: Ուրեմն, աղօթենքը որ Աստուած, ո՛չ թէ միայն պատերազմները դադրեցնէ, չարեցը եւ իրենց չարիքները մեզմէ հեռացնէ, այլ աղօթենքը, որ Աստուած մեզի սրտի եւ մտքի խաղաղութիւն տայ՝ մեր ապրած տագնապին, եւեւշներուն եւ անորոշութիւններուն մէջ, որովհետեւ երբ մնան խաղաղ կ'ըլլայ, իր շուրջը գտնուող մթնողորսն ու կենսուորու կը խաղաղի:

Սիրելիներ, հրեշտակը ձեռքերուն մէջ կախարդական գաւական չունէր, եթէ այդպէս ըլլար երկիրը կը կախարդէր եւ կ'ըսէր. «Խաղաղէն, ով երկիր, որովհետեւ քո Մեսիան թեզի կուգայ»: Հրեշտակը եկաւ եւ հովհիներուն ըսաւ. «Մի վախնաք, վասնպի ահա ես ձեզի մեծ ուրախութեան աւետիս մը կու տամ, որ բոլոր ժողովուրդին պիտի ըլլայ»: Որո՞ն արուած էր այս լուրը: Միայն լուր ատացող հովհիներո՞ն, միայն մէկ համայնքի՝, միայն մէկ եկեղեցիի՝, կամ միայն մէկ ազգի՝: Ո՛չ: Աստուծոյ երկնային պատգամին մէջ համայնտիւնն ու բոլոր ժողովուրդները իր քով համախմբելու ծրագիր կար:

Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսի ծնունդի այս պատգամը, բոլոր ապօբերը՝ իրենց կենցաղի, լեզուական եւ մշակոյթի տարբերութիւններով հանդերձ, իրար քով համախմբելու մէկտեղելու ուժականութիւնը ունի: Հետեւաբար, Ծնունդի պատգամին եւ կերպնական տուեալին քով բոլորս կը շրջինք եւ կը համախմբուինք:

Յովիհաննու 3:16-ը նոյն ոճով կ'արտայայտուի. «Վասն պի Աստուած այնպէս աիրեց աշխարհը, մինչ իր միածին որդին տուալ...», եւ հրեշտակը՝ նոյն թելադրութեամբ կու գայ ու կ'ըսէ, որ մի՛ վախնաք, ահա՛ ես ձեզի մեծ աւետիս մը պիտի տամ բոլոր ժողովուրդներուն պիտի ըլլայ:

Սիրելի՝ հաւատացեալներ, Աստուծոյ աչքով դիտուած մարդկութիւնը հաւասար է: Մենք այսօր եղայրսիրութեան իրաւիրուած ենք. յատկապէս, մեր շուրջը գտնուող, մեզմէ տարբեր մոտածողութիւն ունեցող, եւ մեր ապօբայնական շաղկապէն դրւս ձգուած ժողովուրդը սիրելու, յարգելու եւ անոնց հետ մեր բարիքները կիսելու: Մանաւանդ ափիորի մէջ, մեզ շրջապատող ժողովուրդներուն՝ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսի աւետարանը բաժնելու, մեր օրինութիւնները իրենց հետ կիսելու, եղայրսիրութեան դաշինք կնքելու, եւ մեր քրիստոնէական հաւատորը վկայելու ուղիով կանչուած ենք:

Թող ամենասկալ Աստուած օրինէ մեր ընտանիքները, մեր ժողովուրդը, մեր եկեղեցիները եւ մեր ապօք: Թող մեզ տայ այն ուժը, որ այս ուրախ առիթով, անվախ եւ վասահութեամբ, մենքմեզ ողջունենք եւ լսենք՝ «ձեզի, մեզի, մեծ աւետիս», եւ այդ աւետիսը, Տիրոջ՝ մեզի տուած ուրախութիւնը պիտի ըլլայ, եւ պիտի գերազանցէ մարդուն միտքը եւ երեւակայութեան չափանիշը, ու խաղաղէ մեր սրտերն ու հոգիները: Ամէն: □

*Վեր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեան հովիւն է Հալէպի Համականական Բերէլ Եկեղեցիին եւ Համականական Բերէլ Եկեղեցիին:

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A VIOLA RECITAL - Brahms, Schubert, Gomidas, Bagdasarian, Milhaud, Reger - by Gor Hovhannisyan, Viola and Gary Kirkpatrick, Piano. Recorded live, #301 \$15.00
AMAA's "YOUNG VIRTUOSOS" OF ARMENIA - Musical Ensemble of 6 talented children - ages 9-14 (violins, cello, flute & piano) - Armenian and international classical music, #293 \$10.00
ARMENIAN SACRED MUSIC CHORALE - Conductor Dr. John P. Merjanian-Hymns, Sharagans, and Sacred classics - set of 4 #203 \$25.00
BACK TO ARMENIA - Samuel Yervinian (violin) and Armen Aharonian (piano), (CD), #298 \$15.00
BIBLICAL PARALLELS - Paintings by Lucy Janjigian (DVD) - *The paintings are the evolutionary results of many years of Bible Study - Accompanied by music and narration* - 32 paintings, #312 \$25.00
JOURNEY TO RESURRECTION - Paintings by Lucy Janjigian (DVD and Video) - *Depicting images of Passion Week scenes from Holy Thursday to the Resurrection, with scenes from Jerusalem's landmarks with narration and musical accompaniment* - 33 paintings, DVD #313a, Video #313b \$25.00
"MEGA GA" - Armenian Children's Songs on DVD and CD - Sing along as you experience the beautiful and historical sites of Armenia. Composed by Tamar Albarian. Arranged by Vahan Ohanyan. #324 \$25.00
MEMORIES OF MARASH - (DVD) by Roger K. Hagopian - the Legacy of a lost Armenian community - 74 min. documentary - #327 \$25.00
NOR YERK - BIDI BADMEM (in Armenian - CD), ՆՈՐ ԵՐՔ (ՈՒ ՏԻ) Պիտի Պատմեմ, #s. 208j \$10.00
"SERPAZAN YERKER" Sacred Music Chorale, (tape in Armenian), conducted by Dr. John Merjanian, Սրբազն Երգեր - Խմբավար՝ Տօրթ. Ժան Մերժանեան (Ճայներից) #193 \$10.00
UPROOTED - Paintings by Lucy Janjigian - (DVD) - *Depicting images from the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Turks - Accompanied by photographs, narration and music* - 32 paintings #313c \$25.00

ՀԱՅԵՐԻՆ ԳԻՐՔԵՐ

Անփոխարինելի Ժառանգութիւնը - Հեղինակ՝ Վեր. Պարգեւ Ն. Տարագրեան - Բանախօսութիւններ Հայ Աւետարանական Ծարժումին մասին եւ Աստուածաբանական, փիլիսոփայական եւ եկեղեցական հիւթերու եւ հարցերու շուրջ յօդուածներ - #308. \$15.00
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Կարենը Դէպեր եւ Դէմքեր Հայ Քրիստոնեական Պատմութեան մէջ - Հեղինակ՝ Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Թութիկեան - #67m \$30.00

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OBITUARIES

Rhoda Grace Manoogian Carswell

Rhoda Grace Manoogian Carswell died peacefully at the age of 91 in Leeds, England on September 18, 2010.



Born in Aleppo on December 29, 1918 to an Armenian father and a Greek mother, she referred to herself as a "refugee baby." As an infant, she was given little hope of survival, and yet, from this difficult beginning came an amazing life. Her father, Rev. Sisag Manoogian, was an evangelist and minister of the gospel. Rhoda authored his biography, "Out of the Ark", which described the 33 miraculous escapes from murder at the hands of the Turks. Her father later established 33 churches, and pastored many more throughout the Middle East.

Rhoda obtained two degrees, played the piano, and painted beautiful pictures in oil and water and pen and ink. She loved to entertain and was an avid reader, having read Noel Barber's book on the History of the Ottoman Empire right before her death. She was a wonderful communicator and wrote many letters to her family and friends. Every morning she and her husband would read out loud from Our Daily Bread – making a statement that God was at the center of their lives.

Her husband, William Edward Carswell, predeceased her in 2002. She is survived by two sons, Roger and Geoffrey, six grandchildren and six great grandsons. □

Samuel L. Koundakjian

Samuel L. Koundakjian of Hawthorne, CA passed away on October 10, 2010 at the age of 74. He was born June 9, 1936 in Aleppo, Syria, the son of Loutfig and Isgouhi Koundakjian.



A graduate of Aleppo College, he worked for Fontana as a Sales Manager. Samuel and his family immigrated to the United States in October 1976 and were granted US Citizenship on June 20, 1985. He worked hard until his retirement and was proud to live the American Dream.

He looked forward to attending Sunday morning service at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles and was a member of the Westchester YMCA.

One of his favorite pastimes was to work in his garden where he grew grapes and fruit. He also loved entertaining friends and family to share his stuffed grape leaves and Shish Kebobs.

Sam was predeceased by his wife of 43 years, Yeranouhi. He is survived by his three daughters, Catherine, Christine and Carla Koundakjian, and his two brothers Harry of New York and Philip Koundakjian of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

A memorial service was held on October 24 at the United Armenian Congregational Church. The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to the Westchester Family YMCA, 8015 Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045; the Armenian Tree Project, 65 Main Street, Watertown MA 02472-9992; or to the Armenian Missionary Association of America for the L. Koundakjian Fund. □

David M. Bailey

David M. Bailey, a singer/songwriter and former software manager, passed away on October 2, 2010 in Charlottesville, VA at the age of 44.



Son of Kenneth and Ethel Bailey, missionaries in the Middle East, David was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. Because of the war, his family evacuated first to Switzerland in 1967 and later to Cyprus in 1982. During his high school days in Germany, he learned to play the guitar, played in bands, and began writing songs. He graduated with majors in English and Communication Arts from Grove City College in Pennsylvania where he was a performing songwriter, a choir member and an actor.

In 1996, while working for Eastman Software in Massachusetts, David was diagnosed with brain cancer and was expected to have less than two years to live. Eager to have his life make a difference in the lives of others, he launched a career as a performing songwriter, a "troubadour of hope." Following two surgeries, radiation, experimental chemotherapy and nuclear therapy, he crisscrossed America and Europe, singing in coffee houses and churches, at cancer conferences and for cancer survivor groups for 12 years. He sang of faith, hope and love and of living life to the fullest each day. While enduring numerous additional surgeries and difficult treatments, David made a final tour in July 2010. His music, which has been compared to that of James Taylor, Jim Croce and Cat Stevens, and his personal testimony, have

affected the lives of thousands in the US and around the world. He leaves behind a musical legacy of 23 professionally recorded CDs.

He was a charter member and Elder at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ruckersville, VA, where he co-chaired the Evangelism Committee. A memorial service was held on October 19 at Meadows Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville.

David is survived by his wife of 23 years, Leslie; a daughter Kelcey and a son Cameron; his parents Kenneth and Ethel Bailey; a sister Sara Makari and her husband Victor; numerous sisters- and brothers-in-law; and eight nieces and nephews. □

Stephen Surmeian

Stephen Surmeian was born on July 9, 1933 in New York City. He passed away peacefully at the age of 77 at his home in Woodland Hills, CA on September 18, 2010, after a two year battle with cancer.



His family moved to Union City, NJ and Stephen was baptized in the Armenian Apostolic Church, but attended Sunday School at the local American Evangelical Church because the Armenian Apostolic Church was too far from his home. On cold winter days, when walking to church was impossible, two women from the evangelical church came and drove him and his sister to church. It was a kindness Stephen never forgot.

After graduating from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Stephen moved to Los Angeles, CA where he worked as an Aerospace Designer and Analyst and later as a Senior Scientist at Hughes Aircraft Company until his retirement in 1987.

He was a member of the Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles and served as its Moderator, Treasurer, and as a member of the Board of Trustees, Board of Deacons and Building Committee. He also served the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) as Clerk, Editor of the Quarterly Magazine (The Forum), a member of the Ministerial Committee, Treasurer for two years, and as Chairman of the Board for the Armenian Social Service Center. In 1970, he became a member of the Knights of Vartan, joining Sevan Lodge #28 in the San Fernando Valley where he served in various positions including Commander, Secretary, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Council, and as

Western Grand District Representative.

Most recently, he became active in the Ararat Home of Los Angeles, because of the meaningful work the home does in helping Armenian senior citizens.

A wake and memorial service was held September 22 and 23 in Woodland Hills. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Asien Tozlian; three children James, Michael and Julie; and four grandchildren, Lukas, Haley, Samantha and Mia. □

Agnes Andonian Janbazian

Agnes Andonian

Janbazian, mother of the late Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, former Executive Director of the AMAA from 1987 to 2000, and mother-in-law of Louisa Janbazian, AMAA Publications/Public Relations Director, passed away on November 16 in Toronto at the age of 95.



Daughter of Sarkis and Isguhi Andonian, Agnes was born in 1915 in Khederbeg village of Musa Dagh. She was just 3-4 months old when, with her parents, she became part of the heroic battle of 40 Days of Musa Dagh. After their miraculous survival by French warships, Agnes spent the first four years of her childhood in Egypt in a makeshift town of tents. In 1919, they returned to Musa Dagh. Agnes spent her early years working hard in the fields and in 1935, she married Boghos Janbazian from the village of Bitias.

In 1939, most of the people of Musa Dagh were forced to leave their homeland. First they came to Basit, Syria and spent 54 days under tents in poor conditions waiting for the French government's guidance as to where to settle. In Basit, Agnes gave birth to twin boys, Movses and Hagop, who, due to malnutrition and unbearable conditions, died after a short period of time. Most of the people of Musa Dagh moved from Basit to Ainjar, Lebanon where they lived under tents until they received their one room home on a small piece of land. Agnes and her husband started a new life with their two young daughters, Marie and Vehanoush, working in the fields and in their newly established bakery. God blessed them with four more children, Sona, Movses, Hagop and Ani. Agnes raised her children as true Christians and true Armenians. With hard work and perseverance, they were able to achieve higher education and serve society as nurses, doctor, teachers, missionaries and religious and national leaders.

In 1983, Agnes and her husband moved to Toronto, Canada to join their son, Hagop, and his wife, Juliet. In August 2010, Agnes suffered a stroke. Until the end, she kept her

strong memory and told her stories over and over again to her family and grandchildren, urging them to remain faithful to their Armenian Christian Heritage and keep the family ties.

Agnes was predeceased by her husband in 1988, her son, Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian in 2000 and her daughter, Marie Janbazian Sarmazian in 2002. She is survived by three daughters, Sona, Ani and Vehanoush, a son, Hagop, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto on November 19. □

Վարդիվան Չոլագեան

Ծնած է Հալէպ

1927-ին Հայ Աւետ. ընտանիքի մը մէջ, Ռոպերթ եւ Մայրէնի Չոլագեան նն երու յարկին տակ: Կանուխ տարիքէն նետուած է զործի ասպարեզ:



Արուեստի բնածին կարողութիւններով օժտուած, եղած է վնասուած պարկեշտ, բժախնդիր փորագրիչը եւ կաղապարազործը, որուն արուեստի գլուխգործոցները կը զարդարեն նաև տուներու գողտրիկ անկիւնները:

1958-ին պատկուած է Աստղիկ Շիրիմձեանի հետ, եւ Աստուած օրինած է իրենց ընտանիքը 4 զաւակներով՝ Վիզեն, Լիմի, Հրայր եւ Կասիա: Չոլագեան ընտանիքի բարի ծանր ձիւղաւորուեցաւ, բազմացաւ եւ Պրն. Վարդիվան վայելեց իր զաւակները, փեսաները, հարսերը եւ թռոները, որոնք եղան աստուածային օրինութիւն եւ հպարտութիւն:

Մինչեւ 1969, ան անդամակցած է Հալէպի Հայ Աւետ. Էմմանուէլ Եկեղեցին: Եղած է Զանից վարչական եւ Պատանեաց առաջնորդ:

1969-ին ընտանեօր կը փոխադրուի Պերութ, որ նաև գործօն կեանք կը վարէ Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիին տարբեր եկեղեցական եւ կրթական ժողովներէն ներս:

Սկզբան շրջանին ան կ'անդամակցի էշրէֆիէի Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիին, որ եղած է Հոգաբարձութեան անդամ, եւ ապա Լիքանանի քաղաքացիական պատերազմի պատճառով, Հայ Աւետ. Առաջին Եկեղեցիին, որ նաև ձեռնադրուեցաւ ցկեանս սարկաւագ: Ան երկար տարիներ ծառայած է որպէս հոգաբարձու Հայ Աւետ. Թորոսէան Վարժարանէն ներս: □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

* Armina Boujoulian

Farmington, MI

* Dr. Ara Doumanian

Palo Alto, CA

Georgette Haber

Beirut, Lebanon

* Takouhie Howsepian

Fresno, CA

Kenneth Kasparian

Needham, MA

* Anne Kayarian

New York, NY

* Armine Keazirian

Cable Gardens, Ipswich

* Barbara Kumkumian

Havertown, PA

Anayis Meguerditchian

Santa Clara, CA

Rev. Wanis Semaan

Mesa, AZ

Norma Shooshan

Arlington, MA

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

(Revelation 14:13)

* Memorials designated for AMAA



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Stewardship of God's Blessings: How to Give for His Glory!

For a Christian, Estate and Gift Planning is more than saving taxes and taking care of your loved ones. The Bible talks about how to look at the matter of our material blessings, i.e., 2 Corinthians 9:7 reminds us "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has faithfully used your gifts for carrying out His "good news" and compassion of help to all Armenians worldwide.

There is no better way to thank God than to share His Word with others and give cheerfully. The AMAA has volunteer professionals who are ready to assist you, using all of the sophisticated estate planning opportunities available, to carry out your personal and charitable vision. Here are some helpful hints:

The Direct Giving Cash

Gifts in the form of cash or through checks or credit/debit cards are the most common methods of direct charitable giving. All contributions to AMAA qualify for income, gift and estate tax deduction, as an IRS 501 (c)(3) organization. AMAA can only continue its purposes by your thoughtful and generous support of its outreach.

Giving Securities or Real Estate which has Appreciated in Value

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate that have increased in value can bring extra tax savings. Not only will the donor enjoy the tax deduction for the fair market value of the gift, but will also bypass capital gain tax that would otherwise be due if the securities or property were sold and the proceeds donated.

Charitable Lead or Remainder Trusts

This is where you give the AMAA a certain percentage for a term of years and get the property back or in the alternative, you retain a set percentage of the asset's value transferred to AMAA, who takes on management, for a period of years or life of yourself or others, and at the termination, the asset held in a special perpetual endowment fund in the memory of a loved one, the income used for the specified purpose.

Giving Through a Will or Living Trust

The laws are changing and now is a good time to review long-range estate and financial planning under your current estate planning documents. In the current unstable laws, where the amount passing death tax free is likely to be especially low, the tax incentive for charitable trusts is ever increasing. Giving through wills, living trusts, life insurance policies and retirement accounts at death offer great opportunities for leaving a lasting legacy to charitable interests, when viewed from the effect of death taxes and assets otherwise passing to relatives directly much less attractive.

Endowment Funds

Gifts and bequests can be used to establish endowment funds in the name of the donor or someone the donor wishes to honor, either now or at your being with the Lord. These endowment funds are invested by the AMAA and the income is used to support designated purposes of the donor as part of the worldwide outreach of the AMAA.

There are many ways you can make your giving meaningful and cheerful. Planning and timing are essential. Just take a moment and consider what your giving today will mean for you and for others tomorrow. God will bless you abundantly. AMAA would like to partner with you in carrying out your stewardship for your family, and loved ones and the Lord's work on Earth.

For additional information on giving and estate planning, please write or call in confidence to the Executive Director, who will assist you in every way possible, and can put you in contact with its professionals to help in carrying out your plan in conjunction with your own estate planning representatives, as appropriate. The AMAA's address and phone number are on the inside cover of AMAA NEWS.